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The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

March 6, 2002

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Governor of Idaho  
Boise, Idaho 83720

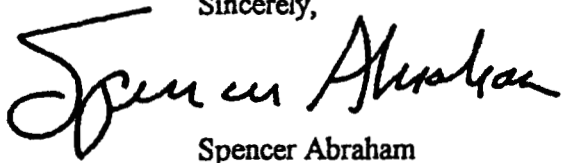
Dear Governor Kempthorne:

Thank you for your January 9, 2002, letter regarding the cleanup of Pit 9 and the environmental mission at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). I am pleased that we had the opportunity to discuss these matters in our meeting on February 25, 2002. I share your concerns about the apparent delays in progress on the Pit 9 project, and I am personally committed to resolving the issues.

Representatives from my office and your office recently met and based on that meeting, I understand that a proposal to resolve the dispute is being actively pursued. I have also directed my staff to coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency on this issue. I look forward to the resolution of our current dispute and working with you to re-shape and accelerate our cleanup projects at the INEEL.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. Dan R. Brouillette, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,



Spencer Abraham

cc: The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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